

The Times Dispatch

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TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1914.

BE AS HONEST AS VIRGINIA.

The report that tax-dodgers are trying to avail themselves of the low rate of taxation on money to list taxable securities as money is discreditable to the good sense and the fair name of Virginia.

The appeal for the low rate on money was solely one of justice. Men felt that the old rate was discriminatory, and the State had no right to demand of a man with a small savings account a tax that ate up more than half his interest.

Heeding his plea, the General Assembly reduced the rate and called upon the taxpayers of Virginia to meet the State half way.

This is an appeal which no man should deny. The law is honest, and requires only the payment of 20 cents on the \$100 valuation, with complete exemption from all local taxes on money. Surely no man can afford to pay a tax so generous as to exact only a tax of \$2 on \$2,000 in cash.

Surely Virginians will not fail in that honesty they have called upon the State, and not in vain, to display toward them.

But good policy, not less than common-sense demands that every man pay on the full amount of his money. The present law, as we all know, was passed to meet an emergency, and will certainly be reviewed by the General Assembly at the extra session. If the law is violated as in the past, and if it is demonstrated that an honest tax will not beget honest taxpayers, then we may expect the law to be repealed. More than this, unless we meet the State in justice and pay our just tax, we cannot expect the principle of a low rate of taxation on intangibles, laid down for the first time in this case, to be extended to other classes of overburdened property.

WAIT FOR THE APPOINTMENTS.

If the alleged "states" of the new tax commission now in circulation are based on the supposed political or personal sympathies of Speaker Cox and Lieutenant-Governor Elyson, they do injustice to the men who are to name the seven legislative members of this important body.

The Times-Dispatch does not for a moment credit any rumors which assert that this delegate or that Senator is to be chosen because he is known to be a friend of Mr. Cox or of Mr. Elyson. We believe that these two officers, appreciating fully the importance of the task to be performed by the commission, will not show the least regard for their personal or political affiliations in selecting the members of the commission. On the contrary, we look to them for a deliberate study of the entire membership of the House and senate, and for the selection of the seven members best qualified by experience and temperament for the consideration of most of reform. We anticipate that the training of the members, their residence and their knowledge of the State's business will all be taken into account. We hope also that one of the seven members chosen will be from the minority, in order that there may be convincing evidence that the commission is to be nonpartisan in its investigations.

FOR OUR FISHERMEN.

We should like to recommend a book for our brother fisherman's use. It does not describe quite all the fish of our Western waters, and it is lacking in information regarding the best method of preparing these modern fish which are popular with some. But it contains all the poetry and all the common-sense of poetry, together with some choice pages of contemplation while one sits under the trees and waits for the fish to bite. It should be in every piscatorian library, and it is worthy of a reading by those whose only rod is a pen and whose only fishing pool in their office. It's Isaac Walton's "Compleat Angler," published in 1653—the best book on fishing that has ever appeared, as fresh and breezy today as when it came from the quill of that genial old haunter of shady pools.

Maybe Kelly organized his army for duty in Mexico.

German War Minister takes the position that dueling is necessary to the perpetuation of the true spirit of the army. An argument in favor of the abolition of the army.

Queen Mary is busy finding a satisfactory son-in-law and having a hard time of it, while President Wilson has nothing to do but accept those his daughters choose. There is another advantage of democracy over royalty.

Three bandits, said to be Mexicans, roamed an American post-office in California. War is now inevitable.

Six volumes of the Colonel's works sold in New York the other day for about \$1,000, and now the opposition within the Progressive ranks will take renewed courage.

March decided not to wait until taking its departure to become bankrupt.

Billy Sunday says that the devil dances the tango. He turkey trots with joy when human beings dance it.

The first thing some people do when they wake up in the morning is to take a quiet air. Uncle Sam to see if his Monroe Doctrine is on straight roads.

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